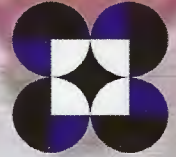




**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
PHILIPPINES (NAST PHL)**
an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)



STATEMENT on Stem Cell Therapy

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) was created by EO 218 of 1982 as the highest advisory body to the Office of the President on matters related to science and technology. Based on this mandate, we would like to present to you the current issues on stem cell therapy (SCT). Thousands have spent millions in hard earned pesos to use this technology for purposes where it is unproven and potentially harmful to their health. Because of severe, life-threatening or debilitating illness, they have become vulnerable prey to unscrupulous institutions that lure them with fallacious claims.

We believe it is time for strong, swift and decisive executive action to curb the uncontrolled proliferation of SCT. Pursuant to our legal mandate, may we respectfully recommend:

1. That AO 2013-0012 from the Department of Health (DOH) be amended to cover numerous loopholes that allow continued exploitation of Filipino citizens. This AO has approved the use of autologous stem cell therapy for ANY purpose, including use for unproven indications.
2. That Circular 2013-017 from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) be amended to IMMEDIATELY require centers that perform these procedures to cease and desist until their claims have been evaluated and permits have been issued.
3. That the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) issue administrative orders disallowing patient payments for experimental treatments (such as stem cell therapy) that they might receive in a clinical trial. This has been declared unethical by the Catholic Bishops Congress of the Philippines (CBCP), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as dozens of medical organizations headed by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP).
(December 3, 2013)

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